

No matter what We must do it !!!!

“Civil society” is an uncommon term and certainly a foreign term for the people of Sumba. When it becomes “civil society health” people assume that it has something to do with illnesses like malaria, diarrhea, ISPA and so on.

“We (the participants) only just began to understand the meaning of “civil society health” at the “Civil Society Evaluation” seminar in September 2004 that was organized by YAPPIKA and funded by ACCESS”, said Demta, the Christian Children’s Fund (CCF) Program Coordinator in West Sumba , who is now also active in *Forum Masyarakat Sipil* (FORMASI) in West Sumba.

Mr. Yanis Loebaloe who is a forum advisor as well as the head of the Social Economic Department at the Agency for Regional Development in West Sumba enthusiastically stated that FORMASI must be driven to continue with its efforts no matter what obstacles it faces.

FORMASI activists have often almost given up with their proposals for ACCESS because it is very difficult to meet the demands of ACCESS and the proposals must be so detailed. That is often the complaint. Mr. Johnny’s comments on our draft proposal can be up to 6-8 pages. His writing and language is extraordinarily good but it’s hard for us to understand.

Everything gets corrected starting from the background, the activity proposals through to budgeting.

We give an incredible amount of energy,
we have discussions over and over again.

At each discussion there must be at least some drinks and fried bananas.

That’s not counting all the emails and faxes to and fro with ACCESS

That all requires a budget too.

Colleagues must go back and forth. The priest who is at Kodi, Demta who is at Waitabula,

Yus at Rua and others need petrol, transport and to use buses.

ACCESS hasn’t contributed anything

even though these colleagues are motivated to put in time and energy
to develop a community organization spirit that is healthy.

As a new organization, it is unknown where funding will come from for photocopying, electricity, telephone, office rental and so on... and so on

It is not simple, easy or cheap to be self supporting.....

If all of this is self supporting it’s not because we are extraordinary,
we just give it what we do have...

We are not office workers on a fixed salary.

We are not business people, who earn a salary.

We are not an established NGO that has funding and funded programs to manage....

We are none of that....!!!

Maybe ACCESS colleagues have never known the meaning of poverty
or they have forgotten because they are not campaigners
like us who have no financial support from anywhere.
Wow, the demands from ACCESS are really arduous,
But we want to start... we want to learn...we want to become big...!!!
But why is our commitment still often doubted ... ???

We have monitored public policies,
We have formed PILKADA alliance,
We have done what we are able to do..... !!

Yeah, it's true what Mr. Yanis said, let's do
what we can do.
Let's do our best, let's prove our commitment
and if finally ACCESS wants to fund us, let us discuss it again.
We are really motivated and not "Project oriented"

ACCESS's commitment to the civil society program is only until 2006
but our struggle will not be limited by time !!!

*(I got pumped up with enthusiasm from Stefe Segu and FORMASI colleagues who have
the will to improve conditions for our nation
When we had to facilitate the cooperative process with ACCESS
They did it with real sincerity
While maybe I was doing it just because it's my job ...
Because I get paid.
Right ???)*